

July Mixed Waste Subgroup Highlights

The Hanford mixed waste (MW) subgroup met on July 10, 1997. Walt Josephson gave an update on the macroencapsulation contract. A contract is now in place with AST for encapsulating 880 drums near T-plant. The drums are to be placed in 28" sleeves. They are now stored in the CWC. The drums are to be compacted at ATG starting on August 8. A treatability study is being done before compaction starts. The macroencapsulation is to begin on August 25 and finish in mid-September. The tubes containing the drums will ultimately be stored in the MW trench. A rain curtain still needs to be constructed in the trench before the tubes can be moved into it. This will be done in September. A video on the macroencapsulation technology demo at INEEL was shown. ER is grouting lead waste and putting it into ERDF.

Joe Waring discussed the non-thermal treatment contract that RFSH has issued 2 RFPs for, one is for treating debris waste and one is treatment of non-debris waste. The winner can treat the waste off-site at their own facility or on-site if they bring all the utilities to the facility. The debris waste contract is to start by treating 460 ft³ of waste in FY99 and more waste later. The non-debris waste contract is to start by treating 100 ft³ of waste in FY98 and more later. So far all bids received were from companies that could treat both types of waste. The intent is to treat waste that cannot be burned at the ATG facility. This includes metal bearing waste (Hg for example) and particulates. The waste will be mixed with resins or reagents and then solidified into a block for disposal. Reactions need to occur so as to pass the TCLP limits for the waste to be disposed of in the LLW burial grounds. There are TPA milestones for MW treatment that start in FY 2000. Bids are being evaluated so as to select a non-thermal treatment contractor(s) this FY.

Norm Olson distributed information on how FDH Technology Management is going to conduct this years technology needs process. The contractors are going to do a bottoms up approach to collect the needs this year. A baseline assessment is also being done to determine the technologies being used and the cost of doing the work to this baseline. The Technology Steering Groups (TSGs) are now working to determine the needs. The schedule was also discussed and showed that the subgroup is to endorse the needs on September 11. The STCG management council is to decide at the July meeting how the prioritization of the needs is to be done this year.

The review of the FDH technology deployment fact sheets is to be done by subgroup members off line. Reports on each of these technologies will be done at our subgroup meetings starting in August. Norm is also looking for a presenter for the TRICIPE Forum on August 6 to talk about MW technology needs at Hanford.

Walt Josepheson discussed a conference call that the MWFA held on macroencapsulation. The MWFA is trying to coordinate this effort across sites and states to allow macroencapsulated waste to be accepted at more sites. Many sites do not now accept such waste. There will be another call in August. Walt also talked about a MWFA sponsored conference he attended at INEEL. The focus was on material handling issues but it only covered conveyor belts, drums, boxes, etc. and did not address Hanford's needs or concerns at all. When the MWFA response to our needs is received in hard copy, all subgroup members will be sent a copy. The next MW subgroup meeting is scheduled for August 14.